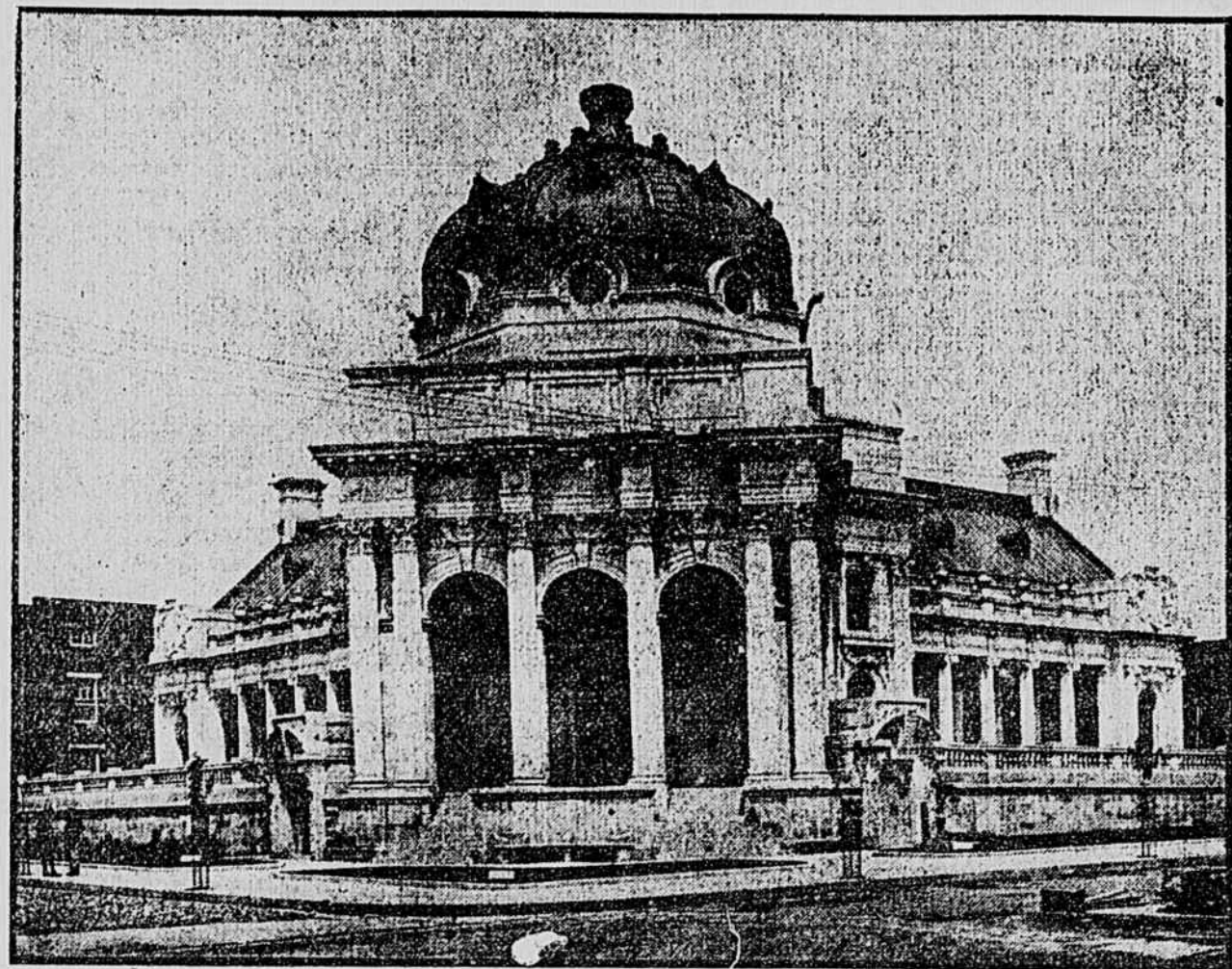


THE HANDLEY LIBRARY AT WINCHESTER FORMALLY OPENED



THE HANDLEY LIBRARY.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Winchester, Va., August 21.—Brilliantly illuminated from dome to basement with hundreds of electric lights and gas jets suspended from ceilings in clusters and from side walls, the Handley Library, said to be the handsomest and most complete institution of the kind in any of the smaller cities of the South, was formally opened tonight by the board of trustees of the Handley Fund, when appropriate exercises were held in the lecture hall.

The principal feature of the opening was the reading of a carefully prepared report by the trustees, reviewing something of the life of the late Judge John Handley, of Scranton, Pa., who created a trust fund of \$500,000 for the erection and maintenance of the library, indicating his relations to Winchester, and suggesting some of the reasons that moved him to make this city the principal object of his bounty. The report also gave an account of the board's administration of the funds that have come into its hands, and certain features of the Handley will were also explained. The report was written by Major Holmes Conrad, the well-known constitutional lawyer of Winchester and Washington, who is president of the board, but who was prevented from reading the report on account of an indisposition. It was read by City Solicitor R. Gray Williams, a member of the board of trustees.

The librarian, C. Vernon Eddy, read a report explanatory of the practical value of the library to this community, and indicated the general conditions upon which the books in the library may be drawn for home reading. A

full and complete financial statement, giving an account in detail of the way in which the trustees have discharged their stewardship to the people of Winchester, was read by J. E. Correll, treasurer of the board.

From about 9:30 o'clock, when the reading of the reports had been concluded, until nearly midnight, the greater portion of the population of Winchester passed through the main entrance and inspected the handsomest and costliest building of which the town boasts. The members of the board of trustees are Major Holmes Conrad, president; Alexander M. Baker, C. M. Gibbons, John W. Rice, secretary; Geo. W. Kurtz, Thomas J. Cooper, Maurice St. Lynch, Dr. William P. McGuire and R. Gray Williams. J. E. Correll is treasurer. The library committee is composed of A. M. Baker, T. J. Cooper and Dr. W. P. McGuire.

The library stands in the center of a large lot at the northwest corner of Broad and Piccadilly Streets, and is surrounded by lawns. Directly opposite is the new United States post office, and the corner is the large brick building used by General Phil Sheridan as his headquarters during the Civil War, and which is now owned and occupied by the Fairfax Club, by which it was remodeled, while on another corner is residential property. The corner stone was laid by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons in Virginia, the occasion being one of the most important and dignified in local Masonic history.

Why Judge Handley selected the city of Winchester as the object of his bounty has often been asked. He came from Ireland to the United States as a poor youth, located at Scranton, Pa., and worked hard to earn money, which he used in buying law books and attending a law school. While yet a student, he formed the acquaintance of Edward J. Fink, an Englishman, who lived in Scranton, but who moved to Winchester in 1869. A few years later Mr. Handley visited Mr. Fink and his family here, and learned much about "Stonewall" Jackson, the Southern Confederacy and Winchester people and their surroundings in general. He was much impressed with the battle-scarred town, which was taken

and retaken more than 100 times during the war. Returning to Scranton, he gave an order for a life-size portrait of General Robert E. Lee and another of "Stonewall" Jackson, which were hung upon the walls of his bachelor apartment. He became more devoted than ever to the cause of the Confederacy, and it was soon reported in and around Scranton that Handley was a "rebel." In spite of the feeling against him, he was elected Judge of Lackawanna County, and held the position for many years thereafter, re- amassing a great fortune by investments in coal lands and real estate in Scranton and vicinity. When the city of Scranton allowed stock pens to be built near his Wyoming Hotel property Judge Handley "kicked," but the stock pens were not removed. It has been related that he had made a will, in which he devised the bulk of his fortune to Scranton institutions, but that he destroyed it and wrote another will, leaving the greater portion of his estate to the city of Winchester.

Judge Handley died on February 15, 1895, and at his request his remains were brought here and interred in a lot which he had selected for himself in the northern portion of Mount Hebron Cemetery, at a point just opposite the entrance to "Stonewall" (Confederate) Cemetery, his wish being to lie as near as possible to those thousands of Southern soldiers who fell in battle in and around Winchester. Persons in Ireland claiming to be kinsmen and others living in Scranton attacked the Handley will. Numerous suits were filed in Philadelphia, Scranton and other Pennsylvania courts, but all suits were decided in favor of Winchester. The formal opening of the library, which bears the name of Judge Handley, is but the beginning of greater things, for within the next few years the erection of the Handley Industrial Schools on seventeen acres of land in the southwestern suburbs of Winchester will be commenced. In those schools all children will be entitled to a free education in industrial arts, without spending a penny. In addition to receiving upwards of \$1,000,000 from the Handley estate, the city of Winchester also owns much of the Handley real estate in the city of Scranton and some of the coal lands of that section.

GREAT IMPETUS GIVEN TO FOREIGN MISSIONS

BY MAMIE BAYS.

Montreat, N. C., August 21.—The Montreat conference on foreign missions, of the Southern Presbyterian Church, has given added impetus to that special department of the work of this church. The foreign mission work of this church is represented in seven fields—Africa, Brazil, China, Cuba, Japan, Korea and Mexico—and fourteen missionaries, representing these different fields, have been present and have addressed this conference.

Among the other prominent men who have taken special part in the program of this conference are the following: Rev. W. M. McPheeters, D. D., of Columbia, S. C., who has conducted the daily Bible study; Rev. A. B. Curry, D. D., pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tenn., who preached the conference sermon; Rev. H. F. Williams, D. D., of Nashville, Tenn., educational secretary of the executive committee of foreign missions, who has led the mission study class each day of the conference; Rev. Walter L. Lingle, D. D., of Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, and his brother, Rev. W. H. Lingle, D. D., of the Presbyterian Church, United States of America, and who is now a missionary in China, and Rev. S. H. Chester, D. D., of Nashville, secretary of foreign correspondence of the executive committee of foreign missions.

Dr. Chester presided over the sessions of the conference and he was the chief factor in the making of the program. The missionaries of Southern Presbyterianism on the seven foreign fields of the church number at this time 288, and they are assisted in their work by 922 native workers. During the past year the number of additions to the church on the foreign fields were 3,155, giving an average of thirty-one additions to each missionary.

The past year has been one that has been marked with signal success for the cause of foreign missions in this church, and this fact increased the spirit of enthusiasm and helpfulness which marked the sessions of the Montreat conference. One year ago the executive committee of foreign missions was hampered with a debt of \$104,568, but during the twelve months that have passed since then the church has contributed \$631,069 to the cause of foreign missions, thus changing the deficit of last year to a surplus of \$7,557 at the present time.

Another fact of special interest in this connection is that during this year, when the largest contributions in the history of the church have been made to foreign missions, the largest number of missionaries have been sent to the field, forty-one having been sent in the past twelve months. Fourteen of these new missionaries went to Africa, twenty to Korea, five to China and two to Brazil. This reinforcement of the missionaries in Korea and Africa practically equip the stations of

this church in those fields and give all of the workers necessary at this time, with the exception of two physicians and two trained nurses, which are very much needed in Africa. Among the special gifts for foreign missions received during the past year was one of \$5,500, to be used for the purpose of building a hospital at Luebo, Africa.

Six of the foreign missionaries of the church have died during the past year and thirteen have been compelled to retire from active work as the result of ill health, but the large number of new missionaries that have been sent out prevents a deficit of workers. China is the field of the church where the greatest need for an increased number of missionaries exists at this time, and the church is making special appeal in the interest of meeting this need as soon as possible.

Found Dead on Road.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Preeling, Va., August 21.—John B. Phipps, a farmer and business man of Brush Creek, was found dead on the road between his home and Little Zion Baptist Church, where he had attended services. When found he was lying with his saddle blanket beneath his head, while his animal was hitched a few feet away. A slightly bruised place on his temple was the only mark found, and that is supposed to have been caused by some hard object on the ground where his head lay. Dr. R. L. Phipps pronounced it a case of heart failure or apoplexy.

Mr. Phipps was nearly sixty years old. He had held the office of county surveyor of Dickenson County for several years. He was known throughout this county and in the upper end of Kentucky, where he had done much work in surveying lands. He is survived by his wife and a number of children.

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